$15.95

LODOSS, the accursed isle where elves, dwarves, heroes and kings face powerful military and magical opponents, is home to the high elf DEEDLIT and her human companion, PARN.

The villagers of Kanon are in peril. The Marmo army is bearing down on them and their only escape is through the Forest of No Return.

But the forest has an elvin curse that will banish trespassing humans into a timeless limbo. Can Deedlit lift the curse, or will Parn and the entire village be lost ...forever?

CPM® MANGA
CMX 63202G

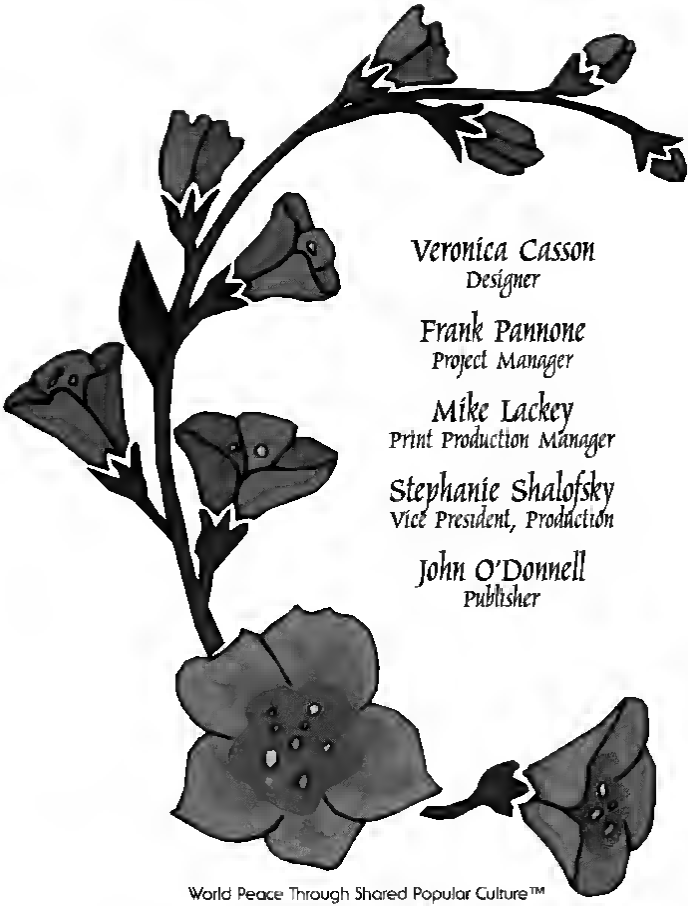
ISBN 1-58664-875-6
00211
7 19987 00632 4

Record of Lodoss War: Deedlit's Tale

CPM MANGA

RECORD OF
LODOSS WAR
Deedlit's Tale

Book Two:
FOREST OF NO RETURN
by RYO MIZUNO and SETSUKO YONEYAMA



Veronica Casson
Designer

Frank Pannone
Project Manager

Mike Lackey
Print Production Manager

Stephanie Shalofsky
Vice President, Production

John O'Donnell
Publisher

World Peace Through Shared Popular Culture™

www.centralparkmedia.com

www.cpmmanga.com

Record of Lodoss War · Deedlit's Tale Book Two: Forest of No Return Published by CPM Manga, a division of Central Park Media Corporation. Office of Publication – 250 West 57th Street, Suite 317, New York, NY 10107 ©1998 Ryou Mizuno/Group SNE/Kadokawa Shoten/Setsko Yoneyama. Originally published in Japan in 1998 by Kadokawa Shoten Publishing Co. Ltd. English translation rights arranged with Kadokawa Shoten Publishing Co. Ltd. Tokyo through Tohan Corporation, Tokyo. English version ©2002 Central Park Media Corporation. CPM Manga and logo are registered trademarks of Central Park Media Corporation. All rights reserved. Price per copy $15.95; price in Canada may vary. ISBN 1-58664-875-6 Catalog: CMX 63202G. UPC: 7-19987-00632-4-00211. Printed in Canada

RECORD OF LODOSS WAR

Deedlit's Tale

Book Two:

FOREST OF NO RETURN

RYO MIZUNO
Writer

SETSUKO YONEYAMA
Artist

LAURA JACKSON & YOKO KOBAYASHI
Translators

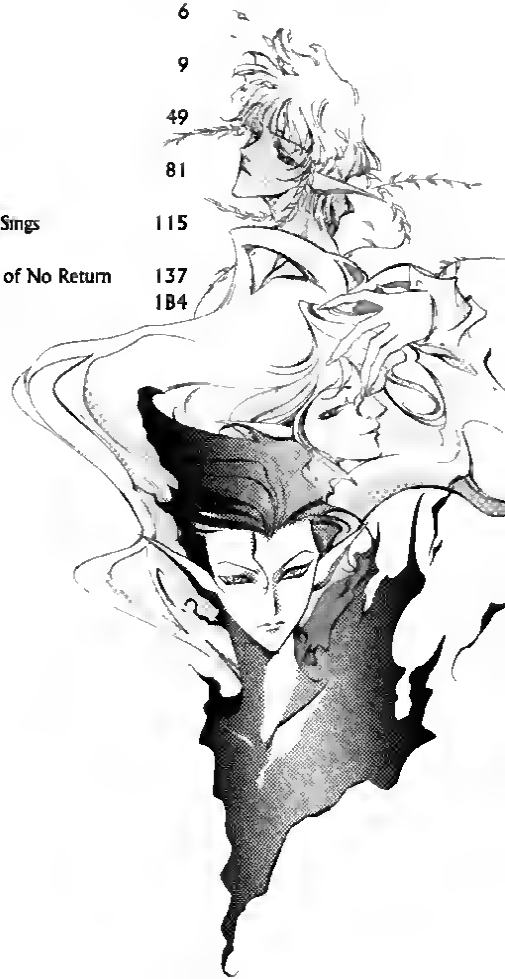
MARK MCMURRAY
Retouching & Lettering

CPM®
MANGA
New York, New York

ロードス島戦記
—ディードリット物語—
ANOTHER RECORD OF LODOSS WAR
下
原作◇水野 良 作画・よねやませつこ

CONTENTS

Character Profiles	6
Episode 5	
Opening the Forest I	9
Episode 6	
Opening the Forest II	49
Episode 7	
Opening the Forest III	81
Episode 8	
The Traveling Minstrel Sings	115
Episode 9	
The Elves of the Forest of No Return	137
Creators' Biographies	184



Character Profiles

DEEDLIT is the only elf-child born in the last 1,000 years. Residing in the fabled FOREST OF NO RETURN, Deedlit is doted over by her over-protective neighbors and relatives, who are fearful that her high spirit and adventurous heart will get her into trouble.

Deedlit is one of the few high elves to ever journey into the world outside the forest, and during her adventures she met a boisterous human named Parn. Overwhelmed by his kindness and bravery, Deedlit fought alongside Parn in the epic War of Heroes. After their victory, they settled in the town of Zaxon, where they anticipated quiet days and romantic nights. Unfortunately, a new conflict looms on the horizon; a conflict not only of steel and blood, but one of the heart.

PARN is widely known as the Free Knight of Lodoss. This noble fighter has allegiance to no single king, preferring to serve the cause of justice, instead. Parn's battle skills and keen mind were a deciding factor in the victory at the War of Heroes, but it is his quiet dignity and nobility which have won Deedlit's heart.

ESTAS is a high elf from the Forest of No Return, and it's obvious that he and Deedlit once had a close relationship. A conceited and condescending immortal, he considers any human...most particularly, Parn...unsuitable companionship for any Elf ,especially Deedlit. Does this spite come from a prejudice against the human species, or does Estas suffer from the very human emotion of jealousy?

LIEF is a half-elf child from the union of a human mother and an elven father. She's learned to live with the prejudices of the world and come to embrace her position. Can she be the bridge between the elves and the humans?

The Story so far...

Through their valiant actions defending the village of Hanam from hostile forces, DEEDLIT and PARN earned respect from the high elf ESTAS, who grudgingly admitted that all humans aren't savages. However Estas still felt uncomfortable with the relationship between Deedlit and her human lover.

Now Parn and Deedlit are leading an exodus from the kingdom of Kanon through the cursed Forest of No Return, and Deedlit will need the help of the high elves for the safety of her human companions. Will Estas be there for our heroes in their time of need, or will old prejudices rise to the surface once again?

Episode 5
Opening the Forest 1

The Kingdom of Kanon
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WE NEED TO GO AFTER THE ESCAPED LORD, EVERYONE.
clank
clank
IS THAT THE FREEDOM ARMY?
ARE THEY HERE TO HELP?
tok
LISTEN, FOLKS...

I KNOW THIS IS A TOUGH DECISION FOR THOSE OF YOU ATTACHED TO YOUR LAND.
YOU HAVE NO FUTURE IF YOU REMAIN IN KANON.
THAT IS WHY WE ARE MOVING TO FLAIM!!
... WE ARE THE FREEDOM ARMY.
PRINCE LEONARD HAS PROMISED THAT ONCE THE KINGDOM IS LIBERATED, YOU WILL GET YOUR LAND BACK.
WE MUST BE PATIENT UNTIL THEN!!
WE ARE FIGHTING FOR PRINCE LEONARD AND KANON'S LIBERATION.
I WOULD LIKE YOU TO COME WITH ME!!
..WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL THEY'RE HERE...
ONCE WE DESERT THE VILLAGE, THERE WON'T BE ANYTHING LEFT TO PILLAGE. THE VILLAGE WILL FALL INTO RUIN.
THE MARMO ARMY SHOULD KNOW...
...WE DON'T HAVE TO LOSE OUR LIVES NOW.

...THAT IT IS THE PEOPLE WHO MAINTAIN A KINGDOM !!
THE KINDOM OF KANON IN SOUTHEASTERN LODOSS WAS INVADED BY THE MARMO EMPIRE 10 YEARS AGO.
UNDER MARMO'S BRUTAL OCCUPATION PEOPLE FELL INTO DESPAIR.
HOWEVER, FOR THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS, CERTAIN PEOPLE HAVE BEEN FIGHTING FOR KANON'S LIBERATION.
HE IS THE EXILED PRINCE LEONARD AND THE FREEDOM ARMY.
AMONG THE FREEDOM KNIGHTS, THERE IS ONE KNOWN AS THE "BRAVE DRAGON SLAYER."

YES. I'VE HEARD THAT THE CRUEL LORD HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO RULE THE VILLAGE OF KARALL.
HE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL LEVY TAXES ON ALL HARVESTS.
IS IT... JUST A RUMOR, FATHER HOPP?
HE DOESN'T CARE IF THE VILLAGERS STARVE TO DEATH, BECAUSE A LORD'S TERM IS ONLY ONE YEAR.
HOW BRUTAL!
FUNNY THING ABOUT THAT RUMOR....
...IT SOUNDS LIKE A PLOT.
IT'S EXACTLY THE SAME ALL OVER KANON!

ARE YOU SAYING IT'S A TRAP...
EVEN IF IT'S A TRAP...
WE CAN'T SIT HERE AND DO NOTHING.
THE PEOPLE OF KARALL ARE SUFFERING.
...TO BAIT THE FREEDOM ARMY !?
...WE CAN'T ABANDON THEM.
IF WE DON'T ACT JUST BECAUSE WE THINK IT'S A TRAP, PEOPLE WILL LOSE FAITH...
...IN OUR ABILITY TO LIBERATE KANON.
BUT...
KNOWING IT'S A TRAP, WE SHOULDN'T MOBILIZE ALL OUR FORCES.
PARN
THE BRAVE DRAGON SLAYER'S NAME IS PARN.

AND BY HIS SIDE IS A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG ELF....
...NAMED DEEDLIT.
DEED ...
IF YOU GO, I'M GOING WITH YOU.
tok tok tok
COMANDER PARN, WE HAVE A PROBLEM !!

THE MARMO ARMY IS PURSUING US.
WE'D BETTER CHECK IT OUT. SHALL I GO AND SEE?
WHAT?
YES, PLEASE DO, MARR.
JUST AS I THOUGHT!
IT'S A TRAP!!
IT'S A GOOD THING I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING TO PRINCE LEONARD.
AS LONG AS HE'S SAFE, WE CAN KEEP THE DREAM OF KANON'S LIBERATION ALIVE.

MARR, HOW DOES IT LOOK?
IT LOOKS BAD.
WE'RE COMPLETELY SURROUNDED. LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE CLOSING IN SO WE CAN'T ESCAPE.
THERE ARE LARGE BANDS OF MARMO SOLDIERS TO THE EAST, WEST, AND SOUTH.
AND TO THE NORTH IS THE "FOREST OF NO RETURN."
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, PARN?
THERE MUST BE A WAY...
YOU THINK? IT LOOKS PRETTY GRIM TO ME.
THERE'S LESS THAN 10 OF US AND MORE THAN 100 OF THEM. AND SOME OF THEM CAN PROBABLY USE SORCERY.

I KNOW YOU ARE STRONG AND CAPABLE ...
...BUT IF YOU TAKE THE VILLAGERS, IT'S ANOTHER STORY.
WE CAN'T LEAVE THEM !!
SO YOU PLAN TO TAKE THE VILLAGERS ON THE OFFENSIVE AGAINST MARMO?
UHH... WELL...
HEY... WHAT IF THE VILLAGERS WAIT HERE?
THE MARMO ARMY WON'T ATTACK PEOPLE WHO DON'T PUT UP ANY RESISTANCE.
I DOUBT THAT.

THEY'LL PROBABLY KILL THE VILLAGERS AS A WARNING TO PROVE THAT THE FREEDOM ARMY IS POWERLESS... AND TO SHOW THAT THE END IS NEAR FOR ANYONE WHO SUPPORTS IT.
YOU'RE RIGHT...
THAT'S IT! I'M OUT!!
WHAT'S HE DOING?
HE'S GOING HOME TO HIDE LIKE A HERMIT.
IT'S OK. HE'S GOOD AT RUNNING AWAY.
IF YOU INTEND TO GO DOWN WITH THE VILLAGERS, BE MY GUEST.
BYE, EVERY ONE!!

LET'S TAKE A SHOT... HIT OR MISS.
THERE WILL PROBABLY BE VICTIMS AMONG THE VILLAGERS, BUT THIS IS THE ONLY WAY WE CAN ATTACK THEM.
THERE'S ONE OTHER WAY.
IT'S BETTER TO ESCAPE THAN DRAG THE VILLAGERS INTO BATTLE.
THEY AREN'T USED TO FIGHTING.
DEED?
WE CAN ESCAPE TO THE NORTH.
THROUGH THE FOREST OF NO RETURN.

ANYONE WHO ENTERS CAN NEVER ESCAPE...
YOU MEAN PASS THROUGH THE LAND OF THE ELVES?
NO. THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. THERE ARE TOO MANY OF US IT'S TOO DANGEROUS
...FROM THE CURSED FOREST OF NO RETURN.
I CAN UNDO THE SPELL...
...ONCE THE SPELL IS UNDONE, THE FOREST WILL GET ITS TRUE CHARACTER BACK.

THEN WE CAN ALL ESCAPE...
... WITHOUT INJURY.
ARE YOU HIDING SOME-THING?
DEED, IS THE SPELL *THAT* EASY TO UNDO?
...
LIKE THE TIME WITH THE WIND TOWER?

DON'T YOU NEED SPECIAL TRAINING ?
I SUCCEEDED THAT TIME.
SO EVERY-THING WILL BE OK THIS TIME TOO.
IN ORDER TO COMMAND THE SPIRITS, YOUR POWER MUST BE EQUAL TO THEIRS.
JIN, THE GOD OF WIND, WAS SEALED IN THE TOWER OF WIND.
THE CURSE OF THE FOREST OF NO RETURN WAS CAST THROUGH THE POWER OF THE KING OF THE SPIRITS OF THE FOREST.
THE ... SPIRIT WORLD?
YES.
IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE EVERYONE.
BUT...

I CAN'T BRING MY SWORD TO THE SPIRIT WORLD.
IF ANY-THING HAPPENS TO YOU...
...I WON'T BE ABLE TO PROTECT YOU.
EVEN WITHOUT MY SWORD...

...MY FEELINGS FOR YOU WILL KEEP ME STRONG...
I'LL BE ALL RIGHT, PARN.
JUST LIKE THE TIME AT THE TOWER OF WIND.
I WILL DEFINITELY COME BACK...
...I PROMISE.

CROSS THE FOREST OF NO RETURN!?
YES.
THE MARMO ARMY WON'T BE ABLE TO FOLLOW US IN THERE.
WE'LL CROSS THE FOREST AND COME OUT SAFELY IN FLAIM.
ARE YOU CRAZY!?
IT'S LIKE SUICIDE.
NO ONE'S EVER GONE INTO THAT FOREST AND COME OUT ALIVE!
I HAVEN'T FINISHED YET!!

THE REASON PEOPLE GET LOST AND NEVER COME OUT IS BECAUSE OF A CURSE.
HOW DO YOU KNOW THE SECRETS OF THE FOREST?
IT WAS MY FRIEND WHO PLACED THE CURSE ON THE FOREST.
THE ANCIENT TREES ARE ENDOWED WITH SORCERY THAT MAKES PEOPLE FALL INTO AN ETERNAL SLEEP.
I WAS BORN IN A VILLAGE IN THE FOREST.
shp
SURELY YOU HAVE ALL HEARD OF THE CURSE OF THE ANCIENT ELF?
YES WE HAVE.
WELL SHE CAN RELEASE THE CURSE.

ONCE THE CURSE IS LIFTED, THE FOREST OF NO RETURN WILL BECOME AN ORDINARY FOREST.
BUT... IT SOUNDS SO DANGER-OUS.
YEAH... I DON'T WANT TO GO INTO THAT FOREST!
IF WE STAY HERE WE'LL DEFINITELY BE KILLED!!!
DON'T YOU GET IT!?!
WE'RE SCARED...
WE'VE BEEN TOLD ABOUT THE DANGERS OF THAT FOREST SINCE WE WERE KIDS.
PLEASE TRY TO UNDERSTAND HOW WE FEEL.

...
WE'D RATHER BE KILLED BY THE MARMO ARMY THAN ENTER THE FOREST.
GRIN

...
I WANT TO HELP YOU.
THE ALTER-NATIVE IS BRUTAL, BUT...
SHINK
CLANK
?
THOSE OF YOU WHO WANT TO DIE THE EASIEST WAY, TAKE THAT KNIFE AND SLIT YOUR THROATS
IF YOU'RE NOT BRAVE ENOUGH I'LL DO IT FOR YOU
WHAT !?

JABBER JABBER
ARE YOU SERIOUS !?
IT'S A LOT EASIER THAN BEING KILLED BY THE MARMO ARMY.
OF COURSE. YOU'VE CHOSEN TO DIE THE EASY WAY.
THIS IS ALL I CAN DO FOR YOU.
YOU CAN HATE ME IF YOU WANT.
IT'S MY FAULT THAT I WAS UNABLE TO SAVE YOU.
BUT KEEP IN MIND MYREE'S TEACHINGS...
SHR
THOSE WHO DIE COURAGEOUSLY WILL BE LED TO THE GARDEN OF PLEASURE.
THOSE WHO FALL INTO THE OTHER WORLD WILL LIVE IN ANGUISH AND REGRET.

hup
I DON'T WANT TO DIE.
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE REGRETS, EITHER.
GOOD. THEN COME WITH ME.
LIVE WITH ME!!!

HOW ABOUT THE REST OF YOU ?
WE'LL STARVE TO DEATH IF WE STAY IN THE VILLAGE...
I GUESS WE SHOULD DO AS YOU SAY.
WELL THEN, WE BETTER LEAVE IMMED-IATELY.
I DOUBT THE MARMO ARMY WILL BE PATIENT FOR LONG.
...
THE FOREST OF NO RETURN.

DEED, DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE CURSE IS COMING FROM?
WE SHOULD GET CAUGHT IN IT SOON.
THEN ...
...YOU SHOULD GO TO THE VILLAGE OF HIGH ELVES AHEAD US.
WE'LL TRY TO RESIST THE CURSE AS BEST WE CAN, BUT...
...WE COULD GET TRAPPED.
LET ME STAY WITH YOU...
...UNTIL THE CURSE OVERTAKES YOU.

I DON'T WANT YOU TO SEE ME WEAKENED.
...
WOOBLE
slump
UH...
THE CURSE!?

IS THIS THE CURSE?
A CURSE IS LIKE SORCERY... IF I CAN JUST FOCUS MY MIND AS I DO....
THUD
...WHEN FIGHTING SORCERY!
DEED!
THUD

IT'S DARK.
HAS EVERYONE DISAPPEARED !?
SO *THIS* IS THE CURSE OF THE FOREST OF NO RETURN.

IF I DON'T LIFT THE CURSE, PARN WILL BE SPELLBOUND FOREVER.
PARN WON'T DIE.
NOT EVER...

HOW STUPID I'M BEING...
...I MUST GO NOW SO THAT PARN AND I CAN LIVE TOGETHER.
DEEP
EVERYONE...
DISAPPEARED.
Crunch

WHY WEREN'T YOU TAKEN BY THE SPELL?
HP
WISP
YOU'RE A HALF ELF!?

RIGHT. AN ELF CURSE DOESN'T AFFECT ELVES.
A HALF ELF IS THE CHILD OF AN ELF AND A HUMAN.
YES, MY HIGH ELF SISTER.
I AM A HALF ELF.
IS THAT WHY I WASN'T TAKEN BY THE CURSE?
THE ELF BLOOD THAT FLOWS IN YOUR VEINS PROTECTED YOU.
ELVES AND HUMANS HAVE NEVER HATED EACH OTHER.
MAYBE BECAUSE...
THAT'S A NICE NAME.
SHE SEEMS TO WANT TO KEEP HER DISTANCE FROM ME.
I'M DEEDLIT. WHO ARE YOU?
LEIF.

...HALF ELVES ARE OSTRACIZED BY BOTH HUMANS AND ELVES.
WHICH OF YOUR PARENTS IS THE ELF?
MY FATHER.
MY MOTHER AND FATHER WERE ADVENTURERS.
WHEN DARK ELVES INVADED OUR FOREST. .
...MY FATHER DIED FIGHTING THEM.
I WONDER IF SHE WAS PERSECUTED.
MY MOTHER LEFT ME IN KARALL WITH MY AUNT AND SET OUT TO AVENGE MY FATHER'S DEATH.
REALLY?
THERE ARE A FEW ELF COLONIES IN KANON.
WHEN THE MARMO EMPIRE INVADED, THEY KILLED MANY ELVES.
I GUESS LEIF'S FATHER WAS ONE OF THEM.

BE STRONG. MARMO'S RULE WON'T LAST LONG.
MM-HM.
I WONDER IF IT WILL BE OK TO BRING HER TO MY VILLAGE.
A HALF ELF HAS NEVER ENTERED THE VILLAGE.
SHOCK

WHAT'S THAT!?
IS THE POWER OF THE FOREST SPIRITS THAT STRONG? HOW STRANGE!!
ARE YOU A SPIRIT MESSENGER !?
MY FATHER TAUGHT ME THAT SPIRITS ARE MY FRIENDS.
IS THAT SO?
DON'T WORRY. THAT IS THE DOOR TO THE WORLD OF SPRITES.
SO A LOT OF SPIRITUAL POWER FLOWS FROM IT.
ARE WE GOING TO THE WORLD OF SPRITES?

I WONDER IF I WILL BE WELCOME.
...
WE WILL PASS THROUGH THE WORLD OF SPRITES TO GET TO MY VILLAGE
IT DOESN'T MATTER. I'M USED TO BEING PICKED ON.
I DON'T WANT TO BE A NUISANCE.
!!!
SHOULD I WAIT HERE FOR YOU?

YOU'RE NOT A NUISANCE!!
STOP THINKING LIKE THAT!!
I'M ON YOUR SIDE.
LIKE YOUR FATHER, I LOVE A HUMAN.
REALLY? DO YOU HAVE A HALF ELF CHILD?
OH, REALLY ?
...
NO... I DON'T HAVE ANY CHILDREN.
WHH...
BLUSH

EPISODE 5 / THE END

Episode 6
Opening the Forest II

...IT'S SO DARK.
THE SCENERY NEVER CHANGES...

tmp
IS THAT THE VILLAGE OF THE HIGH ELVES?
YES IT IS, LEIF.

EVERYTHING IS EXACTLY THE SAME AS WHEN I LEFT TEN YEARS AGO.
IT WILL TAKE A LONG, LONG TIME FOR ANYTHING TO CHANGE HERE.
DEEDLIT... IS THAT YOU, DEEDLIT!?
!!

ESTAS!
WELCOME BACK...
?

THIS IS LEIF.
nod
IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING, SHE'S NOT MY DAUGHTER.
IS THAT A HALF ELF?!
DON'T YOU INSULT HER!!
I KNEW THAT.
HOW DARE YOU BRING A HALF ELF TO OUR VILLAGE!

I GUESS THE REASON YOU'RE BACK HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH BEING TIRED OF HUMANS?
NO, IT HASN'T.
FINE. BUT DON'T LET THAT GIRL INTO THE VILLAGE UNTIL I GET BACK FROM INFORMING THE ELDER.
EXPLAIN?
I'LL EXPLAIN LATER.
I'VE COME TO SEE THE VILLAGE ELDER. I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK.
YOU NEVER FAIL TO AMAZE ME.

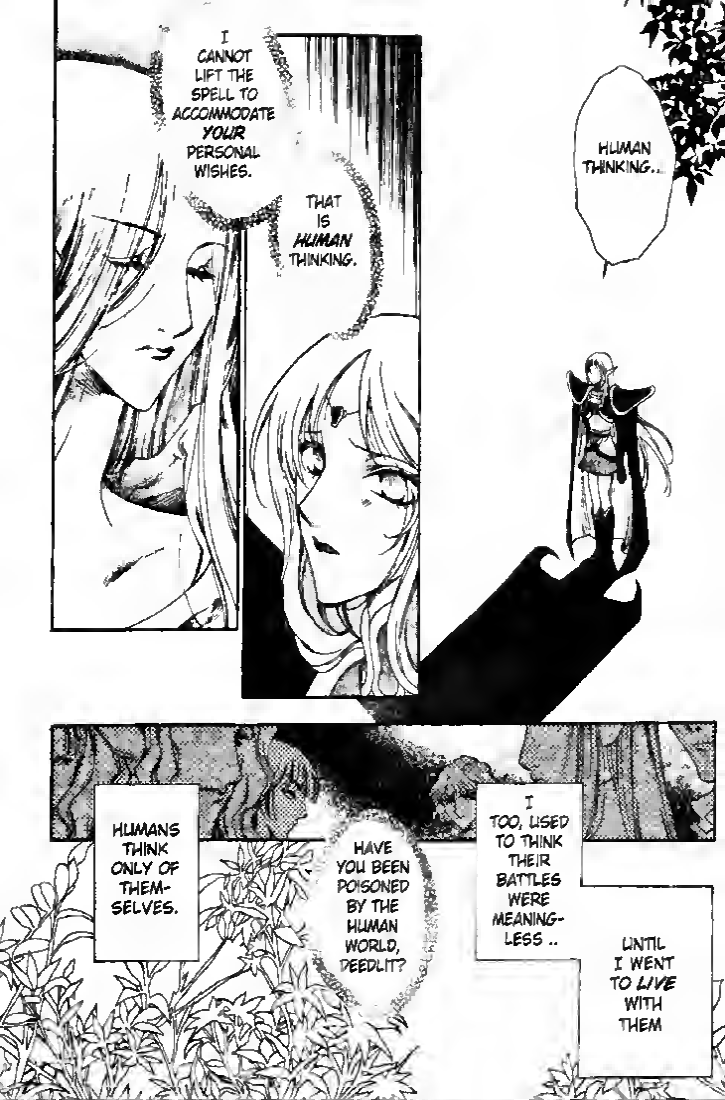
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE I'M NOT WELCOME. I'M SORRY.
LEIF...
... YOU'RE NOT THE ONE WHO SHOULD APOLOGIZE.
REALLY?
IS SHE REALLY USED TO IT?
USED TO BEING PERSECUTED...
DOESN'T SHE MIND BEING TALKED TO LIKE THAT?

THE ELDER IS WAITING.
HOW SAD.
ARE YOU ASKING ME TO LIFT THE CURSE OF THE FOREST?

YES, THAT IS WHY I HAVE RETURNED.
PARN HAS BEEN WAITING ALL THIS TIME.
HE'S WAITING TO BE RELEASED FROM THE SPELL THAT BINDS HIM.
JUST AS I *PROMISED*.
ARE YOU SERIOUS, DEEDLIT?

OF COURSE.
ARE YOU INSANE!?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, DEEDLIT!?
WHY?
WHY DO YOU WANT TO OPEN THE FOREST TO HUMANS?

THIS FOREST IS THE SACRED LAND OF THE HIGH ELVES.
LONG AGO HUMANS TRIED TO CONTROL US WITH SORCERY.
IF THE SPELL IS LIFTED, HUMANS WILL ONCE AGAIN TRY TO INTERFERE WITH OUR LIVES.
IT IS THE SPELL THAT PROTECTS US.
HUMANS CAN DO WHATEVER THEY LIKE IN THEIR OWN WORLD.
BUT THIS FOREST IS NOT THEIR WORLD.
BUT...


I CANNOT LIFT THE SPELL TO ACCOMMODATE YOUR PERSONAL WISHES.
THAT IS HUMAN THINKING.
HUMAN THINKING...
HUMANS THINK ONLY OF THEM-SELVES.
HAVE YOU BEEN POISONED BY THE HUMAN WORLD, DEEDLIT?
I TOO, USED TO THINK THEIR BATTLES WERE MEANING-LESS ..
UNTIL I WENT TO LIVE WITH THEM

I USED TO THINK LIKE EVERY-ONE HERE.
DEEDLIT IS STILL SO YOUNG
HER EXPERIENCE IN THE HUMAN WORLD HAS CONFUSED HER A BIT.
IF SHE STAYS IN THE VILLAGE A WHILE, SHE'LL REALIZE SHE IS WRONG.
OF COURSE, ESTAS.
DEEDLIT IS LIKE A YOUNG TREE.
SHE SOMETIMES ABSORBS POLLUTED WATER AND AIR BECAUSE SHE IS REACHING OUTWARD.
THAT'S ALL IT IS.
BUT SHE HAS RETURNED.
I WILL ALLOW HER TO STAY TONIGHT ONLY.
WHAT ABOUT THE HALF ELF?
THE MEETING IS NOW OVER

WELCOME HOME, DEEDLIT.
!!
FATHER..
MOTHER..

WE'VE MISSED YOU.
WHAT A STRANGE FEELING...
I'M... I'M HOME.
IT FEELS LIKE THESE TREES ARE MOVING AT THE SAME SPEED I AM.
THE SURROUNDINGS NEVER CHANGE.
I SHOULD LEAVE A MARK SOMEWHERE.
SHNK

RUSTLE
UGH
!?

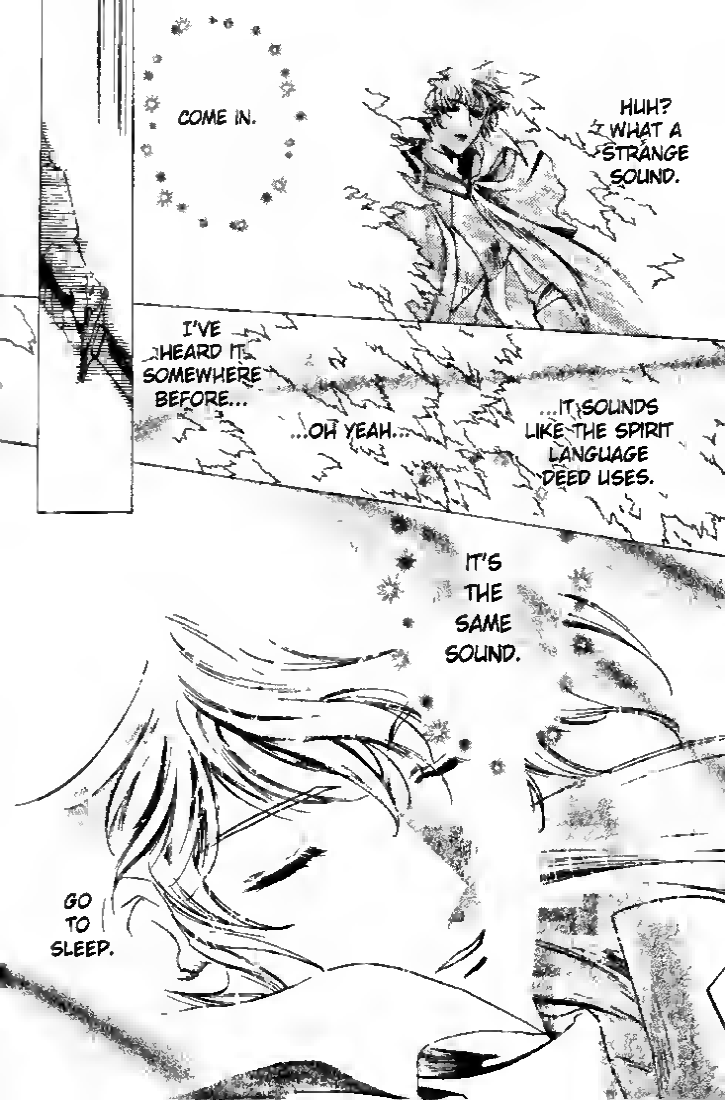
THE
GOLDEN
TREE!!!

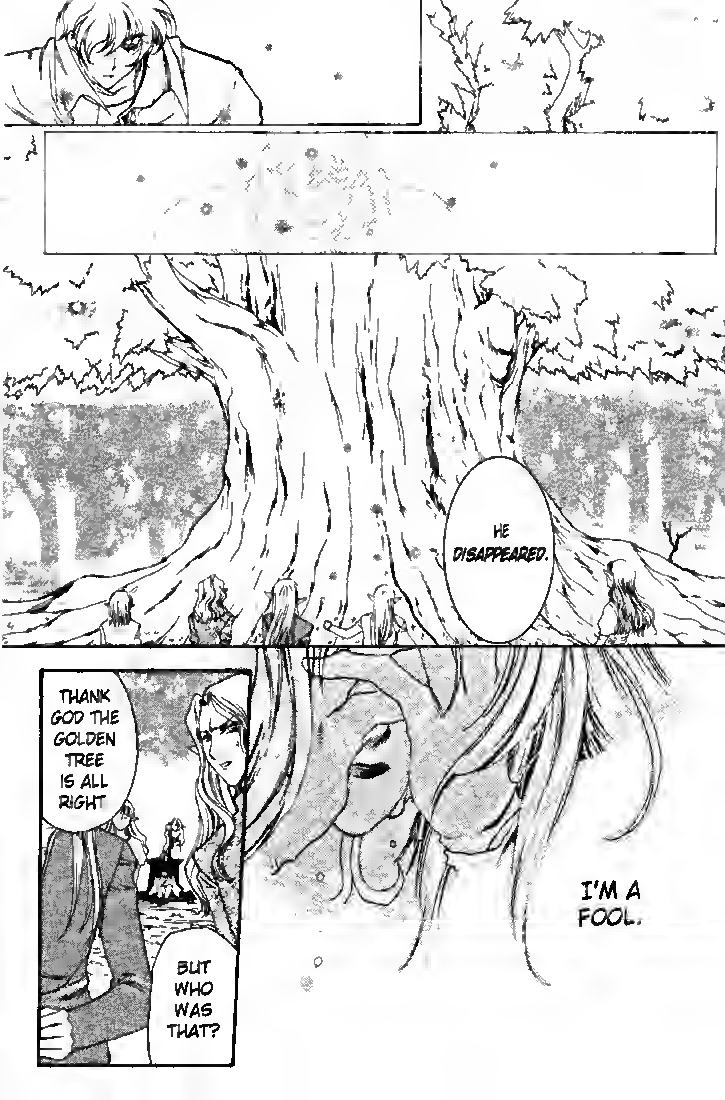
THERE'S A HUMAN NEAR THE GOLDEN TREE!
A HUMAN?
!!
STOP HIM! IF THE GOLDEN TREE IS CUT DOWN..
...THE SPELL OF THE FOREST WILL BE BROKEN!!
TOK

PARN!?
WE MUST STOP HIM!!
HOW!?
HE IS IN ANOTHER WORLD. SWORDS AND SORCERY WILL HAVE NO EFFECT ON HIM.
YOU MUSTN'T HARM THAT TREE!!
NO...
NO, PARN!

THE GOLDEN TREE IS THE ORIGIN OF THE SPELL.
IF IT IS CUT, THE SPELL WILL BE BROKEN.
BUT THAT WOULD BE DISASTROUS!!
IF THE SPELL IS BROKEN BY THE POWER OF A HUMAN SWORD...
PARN !!
...HUMANS AND ELVES WILL NEVER EVER BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER.

THE GOLDEN TREE?
IT GREW FROM A CUTTING TAKEN FROM THE UNIVERSAL TREE WHICH WAS BORN TOGETHER WITH THE GODS.
UNIVERSAL TREE? IS THAT A MYTH? I BET IT'S A FAIRY TALE.
NO. IT'S TRUE.. IN THE SPIRIT WORLD.
THE UNIVERSAL TREE BEARS LIFE AND THE GOLDEN TREE BEARS MORE TREES.
IT'S AN AMAZING TREE.
OF COURSE IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO US.
TO YOU HUMANS, TOO. TO EVERYTHING.


COME IN.
HUH? WHAT A STRANGE SOUND.
I'VE HEARD IT SOMEWHERE BEFORE...
...OH YEAH...
...IT SOUNDS LIKE THE SPIRIT LANGUAGE DEED USES.
IT'S THE SAME SOUND.
GO TO SLEEP.


HE DISAPPEARED.
I'M A FOOL.
THANK GOD THE GOLDEN TREE IS ALL RIGHT
BUT WHO WAS THAT?

I GOT SO CAUGHT UP IN BEING HOME THAT I FORGOT MY MISSION...
I AM NO LONGER AN IGNORANT YOUNG GIRL.
I HAVE BEEN TO THE HUMAN WORLD AND I HAVE SEEN MANY *TRUTHS*.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, DEEDLIT?
HUMANS ARE NOT THE *ONLY* ONES WHO ARE WRONG.
AND IT'S NOT TRUE THAT *ALL* HUMANS THINK *ONLY* OF THEMSELVES.
IT'S NOT TRUE. IT'S *NOT*.

PARN SHOWED ME WHO I AM.
AND WE HIGH ELVES ARE GUILTY OF WRONGDOING AS WELL.

shhhp
...OPEN!
DOOR TO THE SPIRIT WORLD...

THE UNIVERSAL TREE...
...

HOW RARE! AN ELF!
THIS IS THE SPIRIT WORLD. YOU DO NOT LIVE HERE.
IN THIS WORLD ALL PHYSICAL FORM IS NEGATED.
I KNOW THAT.
IN HERE, I AM CLOSER TO A SPIRIT THAN AN ELF.
IF I FORGET I AM AN ELF, I WILL BE SWALLOWED BY THIS WORLD.
AND THEN I WILL BECOME A LESSER SPIRIT WITHOUT A WILL.
BUT A VERY LONG TIME AGO A FRIEND OF MINE CAME HERE AND MADE A PACT.
THE PACT STATED THAT ONE FOREST WOULD BE CLOSED.
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

WHERE IS THE KING OF THE FOREST?
tee hee
HE'S RIGHT THERE.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RIGHT THERE...
AH!
WHAT DO YOU WANT...
...CHILD OF THE FOREST?
YOU DO NOT BELONG HERE.

ENTO, THE HIGHEST OF ALL FOREST SPIRITS!
KING OF THE FOREST,
I HAVE COME TO RELEASE YOU FROM OUR ANCIENT PACT.
YOU... RELEASE ME?
...
YOU ARE NOT AUTHO-RIZED...!

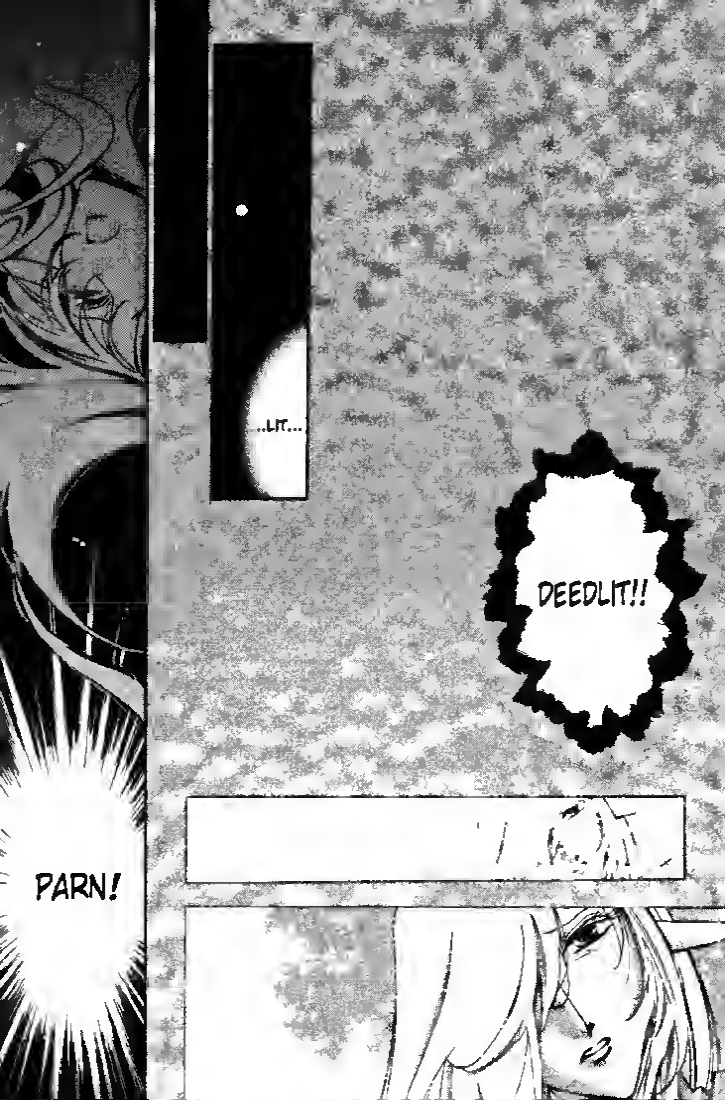
episode 7
opening the forest III

YOU ARE NOT AUTHORIZED.
TEST ME!! I AM THE ONE TO MAKE A PACT WITH YOU.
...

YOU ARE...
...
THERE'S NO NEED TO BE AFRAID.
I JUST NEED TO ALIGN MYSELF WITH HIM.
... NOT AUTHOR-IZED...
THAT IS THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE A PACT.
SSSLIP

WHAT...
NGHH.
VVVN
VVVN
AUGH!
...
AMAZING POWER!!
VVVV

I MUST MAINTAIN MY WILL.
OTHER-WISE,
I WILL DISAPPEAR...
UUGH.
PARN!!


...LIT...
DEEDLIT!!
PARN!

WHAT... HAPPENED?
I THOUGHT I WAS TOO LATE.
...I THOUGHT I HAD DISAPPEARED INTO THE SPIRIT WORLD.
THANKS FOR CALLING ME BACK,
ESTAS...
ES...TAS?
OOZE
...
WHY?

WHY WOULD YOU RISK YOUR LIFE FOR HUMANS?
HOW COULD THAT KNIGHT PUT YOU IN SUCH A DANGEROUS SITUATION?
PARN? NO...
...I DID IT ON MY OWN.
...
...IT'S TRUE YOU'VE GOTTEN STRONGER. BUT YOU ARE NO MATCH FOR THE ELDER.
DEEDLIT!?
YOU'RE RIGHT.
...
I'M GOING TO ASK HER ONE MORE TIME.
OUR ELDER IS THE ONE WHO MADE THE PACT...

YOU'RE A COWARD.
I DIDN'T KNOW EVERYTHING AND I DIDN'T AGREE WITH EVERYTHING.
AND I'M NOT THE ONE WHO'S WRONG. IT'S THE ELDER.
SHE SHOULDN'T CONDEMN WHAT SHE DOESN'T KNOW.
...
ESTAS, YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND.
WHEN YOU CAME TO BRING ME BACK FROM THE HUMAN WORLD...
...YOU UNDERSTOOD. YOU DECIDED TO LET ME STAY.

DEEDLIT,
I DID NOT PROHIBIT YOU FROM ENTERING THE WORLD OF THE SPIRITS, BUT...
... IT WAS WRONG OF YOU TO TRY TO BREAK OUR PACT WITH THE KING OF THE FOREST WITHOUT FIRST CONSULTING THE CLAN
I AGREE...
...BUT THE ONLY THING WRONG WAS THE WAY I DID IT
THIS FOREST SHOULD BE RELEASED FROM THE SPELL!!

WE CANNOT DO THAT, DEEDLIT.
WHY NOT? THE SORCERERS WHO TRIED TO CONTROL US ARE ALL DEAD.
THAT WAS HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO!!
SINCE THEN HUMANS HAVE CHANGED DRAMATICALLY.
OF COURSE, TO A HIGH ELF THEY MAY STILL APPEAR TO BE STUPID.
BUT DO WE HAVE THE RIGHT...
...TO CRITICIZE THEM WITHOUT EVER TRYING TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEM!?

ACCORDING TO ESTAS, HUMAN BEINGS CONTINUE TO FIGHT EACH OTHER.
IS THAT NOT SO?
YES... IT IS
BUT THE FIGHTING WILL END SOME DAY IF THAT'S WHAT THEY WISH.
IF ALL HUMANS TRY TO CHANGE...
. THEY CAN CREATE A WORLD WITHOUT WAR FOR ALL ETERNITY.
PARN IS FIGHTING TO BRING PEACE TO LODOSS.
HE'S CONSTANTLY FACING DANGER AND RISKING HIS LIFE

THEN WE SHOULD WAIT UNTIL THEN.
WE CAN WAIT BECAUSE WE LIVE FOREVER.
IF YOU HATE HUMANS SO MUCH, YOU CAN STAY IN THE ELF WORLD!!
BUT YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO ROB PEOPLE WHO GET TRAPPED HERE OF THEIR TIME!!!
HUMANS DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH TIME!!

IF YOU WANT TO LIVE IN THE HUMAN WORLD, YOU HAVE TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEM.
ALL THE OTHER ELVES OF LODOSS ARE DOING JUST THAT!!
SOME ELVES HAVE GOTTEN CAUGHT UP IN BATTLES AND DIED.
BUT IT WAS STILL THEIR CHOICE TO LIVE WITH HUMANS.
ARE THEY LIVING PEACEFULLY?
OTHERWISE HALF ELVES LIKE LEIF WOULDN'T EXIST.
AREN'T THEY TREATED BADLY BY HUMANS?
I ONCE HEARD SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

THIS IS POINT-LESS...
...THE ELDER DOESN'T WANT CHANGE.
BRING THE HALF ELF HERE.
SHE IS STILL DWELLING ON HER MEMORY OF THE ANCIENT BATTLE WITH HUMANS.
PLEASE ASK HER YOUR-SELF.
OH...
BUT IT'S OK. I'M USED TO BEING TEASED.
I WONDER WHAT SHE'LL THINK...
...IF SHE FINDS OUT HALF ELVES AREN'T HAPPY.

IT'S TOO LATE FOR REGRETS.
?
HER FATHER WAS AN ELF.
HMM. IS THAT SO!?

YES!
MY PARENTS WERE BOTH ADVENTURERS.
MY FATHER LIKED MY MOTHER'S CHEERY DISPOSITION.
MY MOTHER LIKED MY FATHER'S BEAUTY AND GRACE.
SO THEY GOT MARRIED AND I WAS BORN. THEY GAVE UP BEING ADVENTURERS AND SETTLED IN AN ELF VILLAGE.
MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME HOW TO USE WEAPONS.
MY FATHER TAUGHT ME HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH SPIRITS.

HOW COULD YOU STAND IT?
SURELY YOU MUST CURSE YOUR ORIGIN.
JUST BECAUSE I'M A HALF ELF.
THEY EVEN THREW STONES AT ME.
AND THE HUMAN CHILDREN IN NEIGHBORING VILLAGES WOULDN'T PLAY WITH ME.
BECAUSE I'M A HALF ELF.
BUT THE PEOPLE IN THE ELF VILLAGE GAVE ME DIRTY LOOKS

YOU WERE PERSECUTED BY ELVES FOR YOUR HUMAN BLOOD.
YOU WERE PERSECUTED BY HUMANS FOR YOUR ELF BLOOD.
IS THAT RIGHT ?
NOD
THIS IS THE ANSWER, DEEDLIT.
BUT...

...IN SPITE OF IT ALL, I'M HAPPY.

HOW CAN YOU BE HAPPY IF YOU ARE PERSECUTED !?
BECAUSE... MY MOTHER AND FATHER BOTH LOVED ME.

AND BECAUSE I KNOW HOW TO USE SPIRITS AND WEAPONS.
Victory!!
IN THE END IT WAS THE TORMENTORS WHO GOT HURT.
MY LIFE ISN'T ONLY ABOUT BEING TORMENTED.
WE ARE HIGH ELVES. WE ARE NOT THE SAME AS ORDINARY ELVES.
LEIF!!

MASTER!!
WHY DON'T ANY OF YOU FEEL ANYTHING!?
DID YOU HEAR WHAT LEIF SAID!?
MASTER
BMP
...THAT LIFE IN OUR CLAN NEVER CHANGES AND THAT THE FUTURE IS A DEAD END FOR US.
. AFTER LIVING IN THE HUMAN WORLD I REALIZED...

I'VE HEARD THAT ELVES LIVING IN THE HUMAN WORLD HAVE A LIMITED LIFE SPAN.
THEY TEND TO HAVE MANY CHILDREN IN ORDER TO COMPENSATE FOR IT.
...
...
DEEDLIT
IF YOU REALLY WANT TO PERSUADE SOMEONE,
YOU HAVE TO MAKE CLEAR WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU.
ESTAS...
... WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT TO ME.. IS...

I...
I LOVE SOMEONE.
HE IS.
A HUMAN...
AND.
RIGHT NOW HE IS TRAPPED IN THIS FOREST.
I WANT TO SAVE HIM. EVEN IF IT MEANS RISKING MY LIFE.
SHE ALMOST LOST HER LIFE IN THE SPIRIT WORLD.
I HEARD...
...
DEEDLIT...

SO SHE LOVES A HUMAN...
... KNOWING YOU'LL END UP UNHAPPY...
I HAVE ONE THING TO ASK...
...WITH A SHORT LIFE SPAN...
... DO YOU WANT TO HAVE A CHILD WITH THAT HUMAN?
OF COURSE, IF I AM BLESSED WITH A CHILD!
DEEDLIT.

DEEDLIT, YOU ARE THE ONLY HIGH ELF BORN IN THE PAST THOUSAND YEARS.
YOUR BIRTH BROUGHT US MUCH JOY.
YOU WERE THE HOPE OF OUR CLAN.
MASTER?
I FEEL THE SAME AS ALL OF YOU.
HOPE WILL...
... BREAK THE SPELL.

I NEED TO THINK...
THANK YOU, MASTER.
...AND TELL US WHAT WE...
... PERHAPS A NEW WIND WILL BLOW...

... SHOULD DO NEXT.
?
THE GOLDEN TREE?
THE... CURSE?

THAT WAS WORSE THAN I EXPECTED.
SHHOOP
!!
THEY'RE ALL MAD AT ME.
OF COURSE! YOU TRIED TO CUT DOWN THE GOLDEN TREE!!
TELL ME MORE ABOUT...
WE HAVE YOU TO THANK, LEIF.
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
HAVING A CHILD.

DRRRAG
CHILD?
LEIF!! COME OVER HERE.
LISTEN. WHAT I SAID ABOUT HAVING A CHILD.. KEEP IT A SECRET.
PLEASE!!
WAS IT A LIE!? YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO HAVE A HALF ELF BABY, DO YOU!?
IT WASN'T A LIE. BUT BEFORE MEETING YOU, LEIF..
.I WASN'T SURE.
NO!
SINCE PARN'S A HUMAN AND I'M AN ELF, I USED TO HAVE MY DOUBTS.
WELL... WHAT I MEAN IS...

IF YOU HAVE A CHILD WITH HIM, I'M SURE THAT CHILD WILL BE HAPPY.
HUH?
LEIF.....
SHE'S SO PRECIOUS
WHY ARE YOU BLUSHING?
HOW SILLY
I GUARANTEE IT!
LEIF...

THANK YOU.
I'LL NEVER FORGET WHAT YOU DID FOR US...
DEED, WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? LET'S GO!!
I'M COMING, PARN!
LET'S GO, LEIF!
OK!
YOU, CAUGHT BETWEEN HUMANS AND ELVES...
...OPENED THE FOREST!
EPISODE 7 / THE END

Episode 8
The Traveling Minstrel Sings

THE TRAVELING MINSTREL SINGS...
...OF THE PEOPLE OF THE KINGDOM OF KASTOLL WHOSE BLOOD-LINE TRACES BACK TO THE GODS.
SORCERERS WHO COULD LEVITATE CITIES AND KEPT DRAGONS AS SERVANTS.
AN ENORMOUS TOWER SUPPLIED AN ENDLESS SOURCE OF POWER TO THE CRYSTALS IMBEDDED IN THEIR FOREHEADS AND THEY RULED THE ENTIRE ISLAND OF LODOSS.

THEY COULD LEVITATE CITIES?
IT'S JUST A LEGEND.
BUT THEIR DAYS OF GLORY DISAPPEARED LIKE DEW AS THEY FACED ANNIHILATION AT THE HANDS OF SWORD-WIELDING SAVAGES.
NOW THE ANCIENT CITY OF KASTOLL IS BUT A LEGEND.
A LEGEND, HUH?

MY GLORIOUS KASTOLL...
tink.
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD? THE FOREST OF NO RETURN HAS BEEN OPENED.
I HEARD THAT A MAN WHO WAS TRAPPED IN THE FOREST FOR TEN YEARS SUDDENLY CAME BACK HOME.
AND HE HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL IN 10 YEARS!!
TEN YEARS...
YOU MEAN HE HASN'T AGED?
HOW SCARY.
I GUESS THE RUMOR THAT ELVES PUT A SPELL ON HIM WAS TRUE.
"...FOREST OF NO RETURN..."

...THE HIGH ELVES BEWITCHED THE FOREST IN ORDER TO PROTECT THEMSELVES.
ANYONE WHO ENTERED THE FOREST WOULD BE TRAPPED THERE FOREVER.
THEY WOULD NEVER AGE AND NEVER DIE.
AND NEVER SET FOOT OUTSIDE THE FOREST AGAIN... HOWEVER...
...FOR SOME REASON, THE HIGH ELVES LIFTED THE SPELL ON THE FOREST...

PEOPLE TRAPPED FOR 10 YEARS WILL STILL HAVE MANY FRIENDS ALIVE.
THE SAME GOES FOR 20 YEARS.
BUT ANYONE TRAPPED FOR 50 YEARS OR MORE WILL BE COMING BACK TO A COMPLETELY UNFAMILIAR PLACE.
SO...

I WAS TRAPPED
KASTOLL, MY HOME, WAS DESTROYED LONG AGO...
... IN THAT FOREST FOR 500 YEARS.
...THERE'S NOT ONE TRACE OF IT LEFT!

WALKING THE STREETS ALONE AT NIGHT CAN BE DANGEROUS, BROTHER.
THE DELINQUENT DESCENDENTS OF SAVAGES...
WE'LL SPARE YOUR LIFE.
JUST GIVE US ALL YOUR MONEY.
... HAVE TAKEN OVER.
HEY, DID YOU HEAR ME?

KILL HIM!!
NO MATTER HOW MANY OF YOU COME AT ME...
...IT'S NO CONTEST.
DESTROY THEM!!
!?
THE SPELL ISN'T WORKING!?

WHAT'S THAT PUNK TRYING TO DO!?
SHIP
THE TOWER... THE INFINITE POWER...
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO DRAW INFINITE POWER FROM THE TOWER INTO THE CRYSTAL IN MY FOREHEAD...
BUT THE TOWER...
...MY SORCERY...
eek!
SWOOP
tok
YOU WON'T GET AWAY!
GET HIM!!

LOOK! LOOK! THE BEASTS YOU SUMMONED...
HA HA HA. SEE THEM, GO!!!
...ARE WIPING OUT THE SAVAGES!!
HUFF.
HUFF.

WE, WITH CRYSTALS IN OUR FOREHEADS...
...ARE THE CHOSEN PEOPLE OF THE GODS.
I SAY TO YOU WHO HOLD KASTOLL IN HIGH ESTEEM,
...YOUR VICTORIES OVER THE ENEMY IS YOUR PROOF.
WE ARE THE MOST HONORABLE OF TRIBES.
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF,
HOW AWKWARD...

HELLO... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
ARE YOU INJURED?
THAT'S THE TRAVELING MINSTREL FROM BEFORE.
I WILL PAY YOU...
...
...IF YOU'LL SING THAT SONG ONE MORE TIME
THE SONG OF KASTOLL.

HOW DID IT HAPPEN?
THE POWER FROM THE TOWER WAS INFINITE...
HOW COULD THEY HAVE BEEN ANNIHILATED?
ACCORDING TO THE LEGEND, BECAUSE OF IT'S IMMENSE POWER,
IT SPUN OUT OF CONTROL AND EXTINGUISHED ITSELF.
I CAN ONLY IMAGINE HOW THEY SUFFERED
SO WITHOUT MAGIC POWER, MY PEOPLE COULDN'T DEFEND THEMSELVES AND WERE KILLED.

THEY DIED PROUD CITIZENS OF KASTOLL...
...
I WISH I COULD HAVE DIED WITH THEM.

I HAVE NO RELATIVES... NO FRIENDS...
NO POWER... NO PRIDE...
I HAVE NOTHING...
...EXCEPT MY LIFE!
...
AN ELF?!

SLASH
WH... WHY...
IT'S HIGH ELVES WHO TRAPPED ME FOR 500 YEARS.
GO WHEREVER YOU PLEASE.
YOU'RE JUST AN ORDINARY ELF,
SO I'LL LET YOU GO.

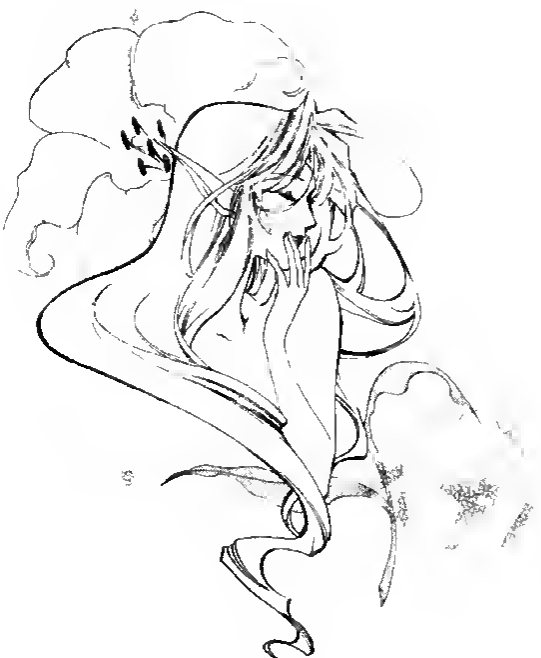
I WILL GET REVENGE ON THE HIGH ELVES WHO TOOK EVERYTHING FROM ME BUT MY LIFE!!
NO MATTER WHAT I HAVE TO DO, NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES!!
REVENGE !!!

IT HAS TAKEN TWO YEARS TO REALIZE I STILL EXIST AND TO COME HERE.
IT HAS TAKEN ONE MORE TO PLAN MY REVENGE.
NOTHING MOTIVATES HUMAN BEINGS LIKE REVENGE.
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SECRET LAWS OF NECROMANCY, I AM NOW THE REIGNING KING OF LOST SOULS.
I EXIST, BUT I HAVE NO LIFE.
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO GET THESE FOOLS TO HELP ME.
WARM BLOOD IS FLOWING THROUGH MY VEINS

I'M NOT SO CRUEL ANYMORE.
WHAT DO YOU ENVISION HAPPENING AFTER YOU GET YOUR REVENGE?
...
AS VICEROY OF LODOSS I WAS SO BRUTAL, I MADE SAVAGES TREMBLE.

NOW THAT TIME HAS BEGUN TO FLOW FOR ME ONCE MORE, I MISS THE TIME THAT WAS LOST
THE YEARS THAT HAVE MELTED AWAY...
I AM A LOST SOUL.
...LIKE THE FAINTEST WHISPER, LOST FOREVER IN THE WIND.
TO ME THE FLOW OF TIME IS MEANINGLESS.

EPISODE 8 / THE END



Episode 9

Elves of the Forest of No Return

OH HOW I'VE MISSED ALLAN
ME TOO.
THIS IS WHERE WE FIRST MET...
...AFTER LEAVING THE FOREST, I WAS DISAPPOINTED BY HUMANS...
...UNTIL I MET YOU.
YOU *SHOULD* MISS ALLAN. YOU'RE A LODOSS KNIGHT NOW
STOP.

BUT YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED..
WELL...
A BIT..
...MY THINKING HAS CHANGED.
BACK THEN...
...MY WHOLE WORLD WAS THE FOREST.
I HAD NEVER EVER LEFT IT.
BUT...

GENTLE SYLPH, THE WEST WIND, TOLD ME STORIES OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD.
STORIES OF HUMANS AND OF WAR.
I BECAME INTERESTED IN THESE HUMANS WHO WERE UNKNOWN TO ME.
BUT I BELIEVED MY FRIENDS WHEN THEY TOLD ME HUMANS WERE A STUPID RACE.

THANKS, SYLPH.
CAN YOU STAY A LITTLE LONGER?
FWOOO
DEEDLIT!!
shock
DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO CATCH SPIRITS!?
PFFF

YOU SAID THAT'S WHAT DARK ELVES DO,
RIGHT ESTAS?
THMP
RIGHT.
BUT SHE'S MY FRIEND!
gulp
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
OUTSIDE THE FOREST AGAIN?
HOW DID YOU KNOW?

YOU ARE FORBIDDEN TO LEAVE THE FOREST
IT IS A TOTALLY DIFFERENT WORLD OUT THERE
...
WATCH YOUR BACK, ESTAS!!
THE KING OF THE FOREST MUST BE SLACKING OFF.
NOT AGAIN..
THAT'S GOT TO BE A STRONG-WILLED HUMAN.

HMM... HUMAN BEINGS TRAPPED BY THE CURSE ON THE FOREST
HUMANS INTEREST ME. EVEN IF ELVES THINK THEY'RE STUPID SAVAGES.
SOME HUMANS CAN USE THE POWER OF THE SPIRITS JUST AS WE CAN.
MAYBE HE'S JUST GOOD AT MANIPULATING SPIRITS.
...
MAYBE.
...
WE CAN'T LET HIM WANDER AROUND LIKE THAT.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR LESSONS!?

I'LL DO THEM LATER.

I HAVE ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD...

...HIGH ELVES CAN BLEED TO DEATH...

... BUT THEY NEVER DIE OF OLD AGE...

...

I'M GETTING TIRED OF THIS MONOTONOUS LIFE.

I WONDER...
...HOW HUMANS LIVE OUT THERE
I'VE NEVER SEEN AN OCEAN.
THROB
I'M FORBIDDEN TO LEAVE THIS FOREST.
WILL I BE IGNORANT MY ENTIRE LIFE?
WILL I NEVER KNOW ABOUT THE OUTSIDE WORLD?
ABOUT HUMAN BEINGS?

I FEEL SIGNS OF DANGER.
I FEEL IT.
MASTER?
IT LOOKS AS IF YOU MAY HAVE TO GO.
I UNDERSTAND.
I'M A LITTLE RELUCTANT, BUT WE HAVE TO ELIMINATE THE THREAT.
I KNOW IT IS AN UNPLEASANT JOB, BUT THE ENTIRE VILLAGE IS DEPENDING ON YOU.
YES MASTER, IT COULD BE A PROBLEM.
...
SO WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO GO, ESTAS?

WH... WHAT'S THAT NOISE? A VOICE?
RRRUFF
hop hop
AN EVIL BEAST!?
prick
//
shoom
I'VE...
rustle
I'VE HEARD THAT SOUND BEFORE...
THAT'S THE ANIMAL OF HUMANS!
I THINK THEY CALL IT A DOG.

A HUMAN !!
WHAT IS A HUMAN DOING IN THIS FOREST !?
AN ELF...
glare
!!

I WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY WITH HUNTING ANIMALS IN THIS FOREST!
YOU SAVAGE !!
HOW CAN YOU BE SO CRUEL!
PLEASE LET ME EXPLAIN.
...
...I'M A HUNTER. THAT'S HOW I MAKE MY LIVING.
I'M NOT DOING THIS FOR FUN.
KILLING ANIMALS TO EAT THEM!!
MAYBE 'CAUSE YOU'RE AN ELF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND,
BUT IT'S NORMAL FOR HUMANS TO EAT MEAT.
IF WE DIDN'T, WE COULDN'T SURVIVE!

HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT!?
YOU HUMANS JUST TAKE WHAT YOU PLEASE, BUT GIVE NOTHING BACK.
EVERYONE KNOWS THAT ONCE HUMANS ENTER A FOREST, THE FOREST DIES
IT'S TRUE THAT WE HUNT...
...BUT THERE'S NO WAY WE COULD WIPE THEM ALL OUT.
BESIDES, WE HAVE HUNTING RULES.
RULES?
SSH
YES, RULES.

LIKE, WE CAN'T HUNT ANIMALS DURING THE BREEDING SEASON AND WE CAN'T HUNT PREGNANT FEMALES OR ANIMALS WITH BABIES. RULES LIKE THAT.
AND WE HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THE FOREST IN ORDER TO BE A GOOD HUNTER.
HUNTERS ARE HUMAN BEINGS, BUT AT THE SAME TIME WE'RE CREATURES OF THE FOREST.
!?
BUT OTHERWISE, THEY'RE THE SAME AS US.
HUMAN EARS ARE ROUND.
THAT'S WHAT MY FATHER ALWAYS SAID.
Ha ha ha
...
SO THIS IS HOW HUMANS THINK.

WHAT'S WRONG?
NOTH-ING...
HAVEN'T I SEEN HIM SOME-WHERE?
...
I APOLOGIZE FOR BEING SO RUDE.
I'M... DEEDLIT. I LIVE IN THIS FOREST.
I'M JORD.
AREN'T YOU...
... CONCERNED AT ALL?
HUH?
ABOUT THE CURSE.
UH...

OHHH... RIGHT... YOU'RE AN ELF?
...
THE HIGH ELVES PUT THE CURSE ON THE FOREST.
WHY ARE YOU HUNTING IN THIS FOREST?
IT'S DANGER-OUS.
I'M FINE. I KNOW WHICH PARTS ARE SAFE.
ANYONE WHO ENTERS CAN NEVER GET OUT.
MY FATHER TAUGHT ME.
HUMANS KNOW *THAT MUCH?*
HE SAID THE CURSE ON THE FOREST IS LIKE A WALL, BUT...
...FIFTEEN YEARS AGO MY FATHER ENTERED THIS FOREST...
...AND NEVER CAME BACK.

I NEED TO KNOW WHY MY FATHER NEVER RETURNED
I'VE HEARD THAT HUMANS MOURN THE DEATH OF THEIR RELATIVES
ALL THE VILLAGERS HELPED US OUT WITH MONEY, BUT IT WASN'T ENOUGH FOR MY FATHER
THEIR LIVES ARE SHORT.
IN A RUSH?
UNTIL THEN HE WAS ALWAYS FINE IN HERE.
BUT HE WAS IN A RUSH THAT DAY
MY MOTHER WAS SICK AND WE NEEDED MONEY.

I HAVE TO GO NOW ..
IT'S BEST IF YOU DON'T COME INTO THIS FOREST.
IT'S A DANGEROUS PLACE FOR HUMANS.
fwip
I'LL BET I'VE LIVED MORE THAN 3 TIMES AS LONG AS HE ...
BUT HE HAS SO MUCH MORE EXPERIENCE AND DEPTH THAN I.
YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU MIGHT MEET THE SAME FATE AS YOUR FATHER.
I HOPE YOU FIND OUT.
A HUMAN BEING
I HOPE WE MEET AGAIN.
HE'S SO SERIOUS.

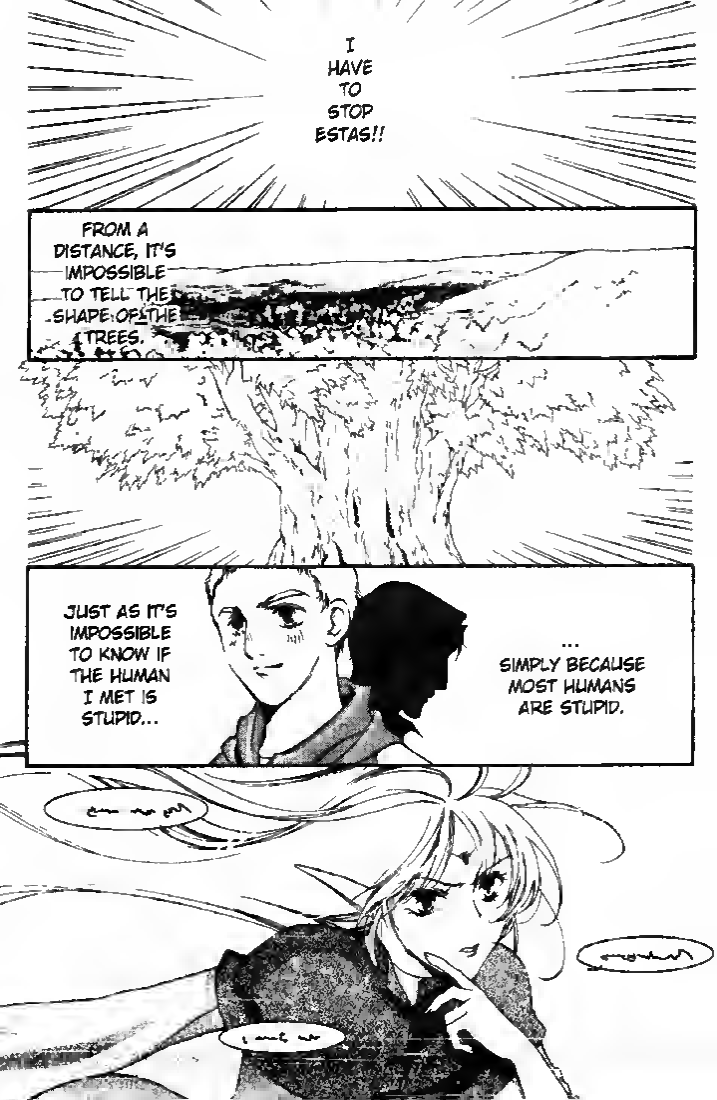
IT'S BEST IF WE DON'T.
I MUSTN'T SEE HIM AGAIN.
HE SHOULDN'T BE IN THIS FOREST.
I SHOULDN'T LEAVE THE FOREST.
I'M FORBIDDEN TO GO TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

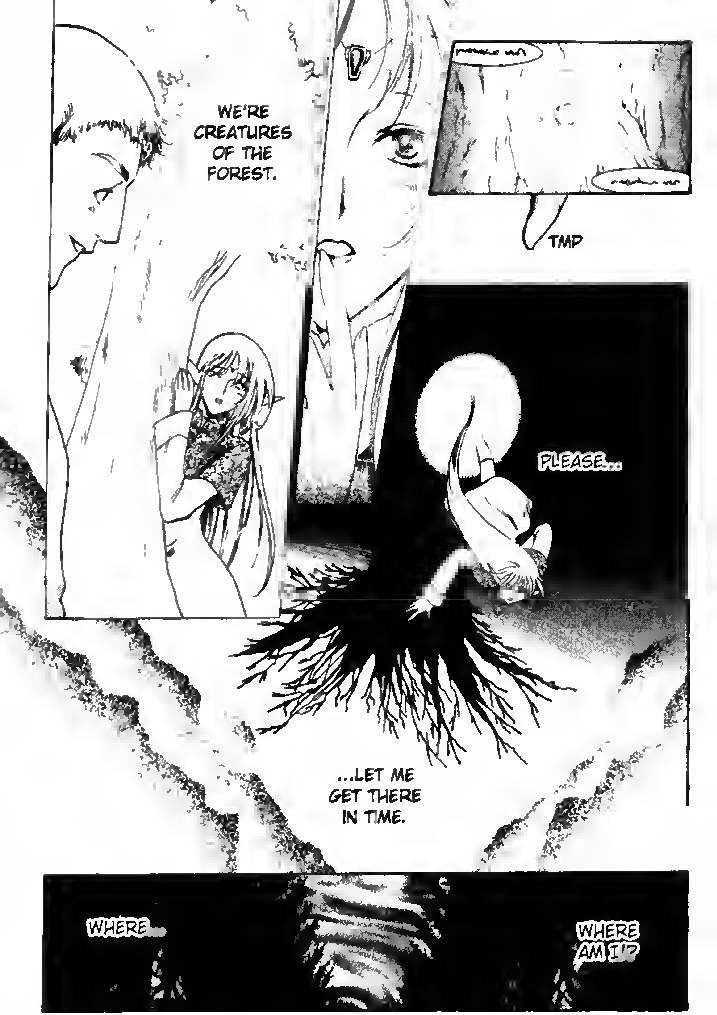
MOTHER, DO YOU KNOW WHERE ESTAS IS?
BUT DON'T BE PESTERING HIM.
YES, I DO.
I WON'T PESTER HIM.
I HOPE NOT.
HE WENT TO SEE ENTO, THE KING OF THE FOREST.
HE WENT TO THE SPIRIT WORLD?
I WONDER HOW ESTAS WILL FEEL ABOUT ME MEETING A HUMAN TODAY.
ACTUALLY, HE WENT TO THE FOREST OF LOST SOULS.
THE PLACE OF SORCERY? I WONDER WHY HE WENT THERE.
I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN!

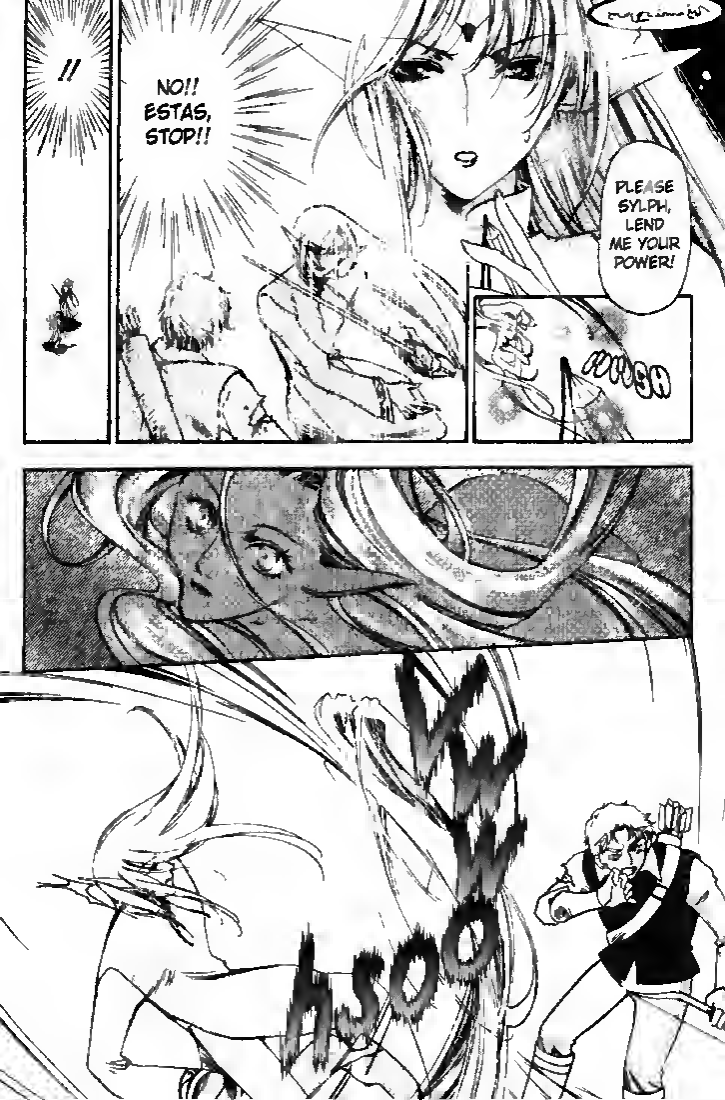
THAT FACE ..
JORD!?
WE CAN'T LET HIM WANDER AROUND LIKE THAT.
NO!
ESTAS, DON'T!!
WHUMP

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, DEEDLIT? HE'S WORKING ON BEHALF OF OUR VILLAGE.
HE WAS GOOD ENOUGH TO VOLUNTEER TO DO AN UNPLEASANT JOB.
GOOD ENOUGH ?
HOW IS THAT GOOD?
HE'S GOING TO KILL THAT HUMAN, ISN'T HE!?
FATHER!!
THE HUMAN IS A THREAT TO US.
HE MUST BE KILLED.

HE COULD TEAR DOWN THE BARRIER BETWEEN OUR WORLDS WHICH WOULD ALLOW SAVAGE HUMANS IN.
THAT COULD LEAD TO DISAS-TER.
TAKING THE LIFE OF AN INNOCENT HUMAN IS SAVAGE!!
YOU'RE WRONG, DEEDLIT.
STOP FORCING YOUR OPINIONS ON ME!!
I CAN THINK FOR MYSELF!
AND I THINK YOU'RE ALL WRONG!!
BAM
DEEDLIT !!


I HAVE TO STOP ESTAS!!
FROM A DISTANCE, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL THE SHAPE OF THE TREES.
JUST AS IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW IF THE HUMAN I MET IS STUPID...
... SIMPLY BECAUSE MOST HUMANS ARE STUPID.


WE'RE CREATURES OF THE FOREST.
TMP
PLEASE...
...LET ME GET THERE IN TIME.
WHERE...
WHERE AM I?


!!
NO!! ESTAS, STOP!!
PLEASE SYLPH, LEND ME YOUR POWER!
POOSH
hsoo

ESTAS, STOP!!
STAY BACK, DEEDLIT!!
!?
thap
AUGH
THAT SPIRIT IS CRAZY!!
SYLPH, WHHHY!?
GET BACK, DEEDLIT.

Huh?
Shh
LOOK OUT!!
BOK
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, ELF?
ARE YOU JORD'S FATHER?
I THOUGHT SO...
HOW DO YOU KNOW MY SON'S NAME!?
WHIP

I SEE...
THIS IS THE PLACE OF SORCERY ENTO CREATED
THIS PLACE IS UNFAMILIAR TO SYLPH SO SHE
...I'M SORRY, SYLPH!
I'M SORRY...

PROTECTING THE VILLAGE IS IMPORTANT, BUT..
YOU'RE OVER-REACTING
I'M ACTING ON THE WILL OF THE ELVES OF THE VILLAGE
NO, YOU HAVE TO STOP, ESTAS!!
WHY, DEEDLIT ?
...LIKE I KEEP TELLING YOU..
WHY ARE YOU USING THE POWER OF THE SPIRITS?
...IT'S NOT OK TO HURT OTHERS. HARMING OTHERS IS A SAVAGE ACT.
WHY DON'T WE JUST LET HIM GO?
I CAN'T ALTER THE SPELL. ANYONE WHO ENTERS THIS FOREST, CAN NEVER ESCAPE.
BUT IF HE AGREES TO GO TO SLEEP FOREVER, THAT'S ANOTHER THING.

IT'S THE SAME AS DEATH. I HAVE TO GO BACK...
...NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS !!
TO BE WITH YOUR SICK WIFE?
HOW DO YOU KNOW !?
JORD TOLD ME
JORD..
DEEDLIT, DID SOMETHING HAPPEN WHEN YOU WENT OUTSIDE?
YES.
I WAS HOPING YOU'D ASK ME THAT
WELL?
IT'S THE REASON I CAME HERE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
THE WAY TIME PASSES IN THE FOREST OF LOST SOULS IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.
...
FIFTEEN YEARS HAS PASSED SINCE THAT FATEFUL DAY?
THE DAY I TRIED TO HUNT DOWN THE LEGENDARY BEAST.
I WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HEAL MY WIFE, EARN MONEY..
CAPTURING THE LEGENDARY BEAST IS THE HIGHEST HONOR A HUNTER CAN ACHIEVE
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I EVER HUNTED OUT OF GREED.
...AND BE GLORIFIED!!
shnk

I IGNORED THE CURSE OF THE FOREST THAT DAY...
...AND THE FOREST PASSED JUDGMENT ON ME.
THEN YOU WON'T MAKE SUCH STUPID MISTAKES.
YOU'D BETTER LEARN THE RULES OF THE SPIRITS.
...
THANK YOU FOR COMING TO TELL ME.
YOU'RE WELCOME. JORD IS GOING TO BE SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU WHEN YOU GET HOME.
DEEDLIT!

EVEN IF YOU GO BACK TO THE HUMAN WORLD... YOU..
I DON'T SEE ANY PROBLEM WITH RELEASING A MAN WHO RESPECTS THE FOREST
PLEASE ELVES...
ES.. TAS?
FIFTEEN YEARS IS A LONG TIME TO A HUMAN
NOW THAT YOU KNOW THE WHOLE STORY, DO YOU STILL WANT TO BE RELEASED?
YES.
PLEASE RELEASE ME.
...
I SEE... ALL RIGHT.

I THANK YOU, ELVES OF THE FOREST.
DO YOU REALLY?
OF COURSE.
I THANK YOU...
FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.
...
ESTAS, I'VE LEARNED A LOT FROM EVERYONE OVER THE YEARS,
AND I'M NOT SAYING WHAT I'VE LEARNED IS A LIE, BUT...
...NOW I KNOW THAT IT'S NOT EVERYTHING.

LEAVES OF TRUTH CAN BE FOUND OUTSIDE THE FOREST TOO.
YES, YOU'RE RIGHT.
AS I EXPECTED I WAS IN BIG TROUBLE...
...WHEN I GOT BACK TO THE VILLAGE.

MY FATHER LECTURED ME FOR 10 DAYS ON HOW HIGH ELVES SHOULD ACT.
yada yada yada
sniff sniff
THE LENGTH OF HIS SERMON WAS DIRECTLY PROPORTIONAL TO THE LENGTH OF HIS LIFE.
AFTER THAT THE VILLAGE ELDER GATHERED ALL THE VILLAGERS TOGETHER.
ONE AMONGST YOU MUST GO TO THE HUMAN WORLD.
AND SHE TOLD US THAT SHE SENSED DISASTER LOOMING IN LODOSS.
AND THAT WE NEEDED TO FIND OUT IF IT WOULD REACH OUR FOREST.
ME!!
LET ME GO!!
OF COURSE, THEY WERE ALL OPPOSED.
GLARE
BUT...

...ONE MONTH LATER...
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU SIDED WITH ME.
I OWE IT ALL TO YOU.
EVERYONE EXPECTED ESTAS TO TAKE THIS MISSION,
BUT HE AGREED TO LET ME GO.
I WAS SO PERSISTENT
I WON HIM OVER.
NO ONE EVER WANTS TO LEAVE THE VILLAGE, LET ALONE THE FOREST.
BE CAREFUL, DEEDLIT.
ESTAS, WHY ARE YOU LETTING ME DO THIS?
WE WON'T SEE EACH OTHER FOR A LONG TIME. TELL ME.
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND ONCE YOU'RE OUTSIDE.

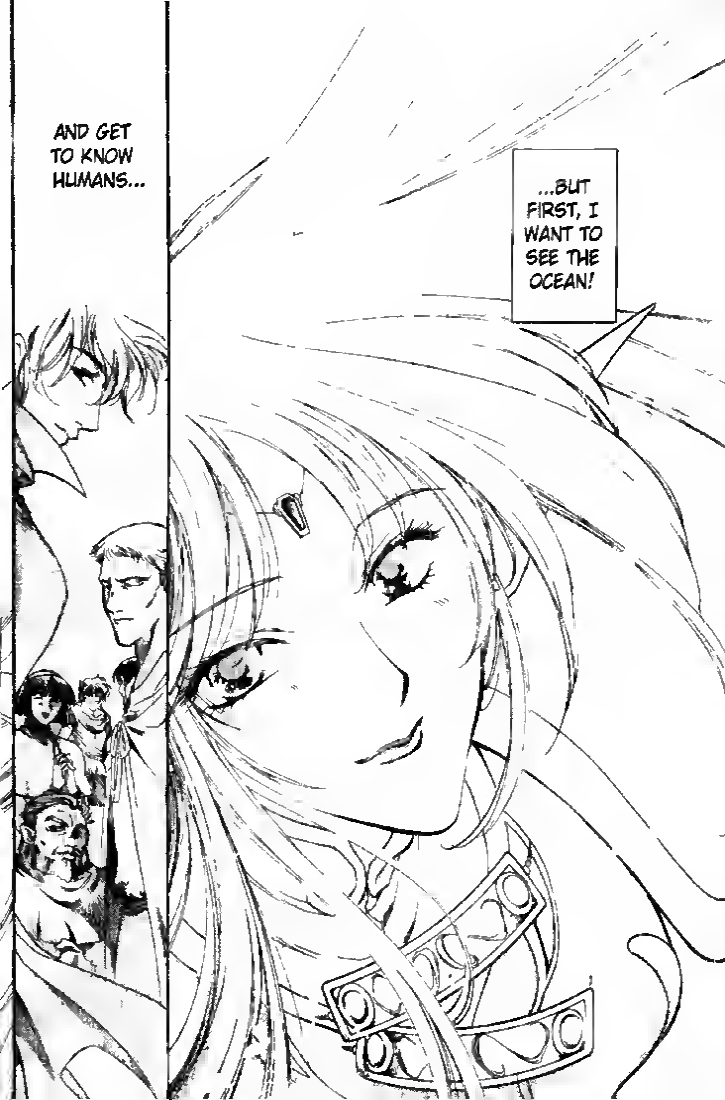
I VOLUNTEERED TO GO TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD.
I WAS ONCE LIKE YOU ARE NOW.
DON'T EVADE MY QUESTION !!
I HAVE NOTHING TO TELL YOU... EXCEPT...
EXCEPT?
THAT WAS BACK BEFORE YOU WERE BORN.
AND HOPE FOR HUMANS.
BACK WHEN I THOUGHT THERE WAS HOPE FOR THE OUTSIDE WORLD.
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.

I STILL HAVEN'T TOLD YOU EVERYTHING.
MY HOPES SOON TURNED TO DESPAIR.
I SAW FRIENDS KILLING EACH OTHER, AND THE MAN WHO KILLED THE MOST WAS PRAISED AS A HERO.
I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT. I DIDN'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT.
THAT'S WHY I HAVEN'T TOLD YOU EVERYTHING.

ESTAS?
MAYBE I SIDED WITH YOU SO I COULD PUNISH YOU.
NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY, YOU NEVER SEEM TO UNDERSTAND.
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO SEE THE UGLY TRUTH FOR YOURSELF.
THEN MAYBE YOU'LL GET A TASTE OF DESPAIR.
YOU DON'T MEAN IT!!
I KNOW YOU DON'T MEAN IT...
...THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME THIS CHANCE IN SPITE OF WHAT MAY HAPPEN.

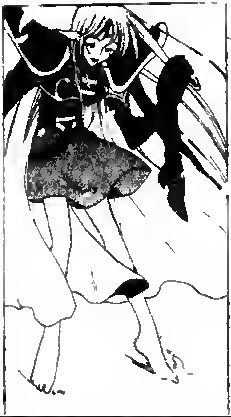
THAT'S WHAT THE HUMAN SAID.
RIGHT AFTER...
...WE RELEASED HIM FROM THE FOREST.
I WONDER WHY.
WELL, THIS IS IT.
THANK YOU? ...HMM.

BUT I'M NOT GOING OUT THERE TO FIND DESPAIR.
I INTEND TO FIND MY OWN REALITY.
I MAY ENCOUNTER THE SAME REALITY AS YOU,
BUT HOW WE PERCEIVE IT DIFFERS FROM PERSON TO PERSON.
SO I AM GOING TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD TO SEEK MY OWN ANSWERS!!


AND GET TO KNOW HUMANS...
...BUT FIRST, I WANT TO SEE THE OCEAN!

I'LL DIP MY FEET IN THAT HUGE BODY OF WATER TO SEE JUST HOW COLD IT IS.

WHO KNOWS... MAYBE I'LL FIND A LEAF OF TRUTH OUT THERE.



EPISODE 9 / THE END

SPECIAL THANKS

AKARI FUNATO
IKUKO IMAEDA
EMI MORISHITA
EMI MURATA
KAZUKO YONEYAMA
KIYOKO AIKOU
NANA NAKAMURA
MAKI FUKUDOME
MIYOKO TAKADA
YUMIKO TAKEMOTO

AND ALL FRIENDS
MY FAMILY

AND YOU

Creators' Biographies

artist

SETSUKO YONEYAMA

Born on June 30th. Her blood type is O, and her astrological sign is Cancer. Her first novel, published when she was a student, was *Forest of the High Elf*. Since then she has always been interested in the Lodoss War mythology, but she never expected that she'd be a part of it. At first she didn't feel up to the task, but now she loves the work she has done and is quite proud of it.

writer

RYO MIZUNO

Born in the morning on July 13, 1963 in Osaka, Japan. Blood type is A, Astrological sign is Cancer. His works include *Record of Lodoss War: The Grey Witch*, *Record of Lodoss War: Lady of Pharis*, *Record of Lodoss War: Chronicles of the Heroic Knight.*